

Madame Chairmen and members of the committee, my name is Alischa Mason and I live in my own house in Helena MT.

I was born deaf. I went to school from 1981-1996 in Great Falls for the Deaf and Blind. In 1996 I moved to Helena in my own apartment.

I started services with Helena Industries in the Supported Employment program through Vocational Rehabilitation.

My job coach has taken Sign Language training and takes classes as they are offered. This helps my communication and on-site training for my job. I have worked at a lot of jobs with the help of Helena Industries program and I now, for the past 8 years work at St. Peters Hospital as a dishwasher.

Over the years my job coach has helped with the following:

- Asking for applications
- Filling out applications
- Job interviewing
- Learning the job
- Helping with communication with my boss and co-workers
- Helping me understand instructions

I am going to need long term support from my job coach, to keep my job. I am asking you to continue to support these services.

Thank you for your help.